



Minnesota

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U.S. Green Building Council Names Minnesota in Top-10 List of Green Building States

Minnesota Ranks Number 10, Boasts 167 LEED Certified Buildings and Sustains Momentum with Natural Design Competition

Minneapolis – (March 3, 2011) – For eight years, the Minnesota Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council has advocated for sustainable, environmentally friendly commercial and residential buildings. The Chapter has helped local building owners large and small achieve and sustain eco-friendly projects – and save money in the process. Today, the national U.S. Green Building Council named Minnesota the 10th-best state for LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, Certified commercial and institutional green buildings per capita, based on 2010 U.S. Census data.

“167 buildings are LEED Certified in Minnesota, a substantial number and testament to countless building owners, engineers and architects in our community applying rigorous, third-party validation to their facilities,” said Sheri Brezinka, executive director for the Minnesota Chapter of the USGBC. “We are dedicated to maintaining our position as a leading state, and are currently accepting applications for our fourth annual Natural Design Competition. The competition calls on young architects to design the next-generation green home for Minnesota.”

The Chapter is holding its first Leadership Sustainability Awards on April 14, 2011 to recognize the premier green buildings in Minnesota. For more information, or to submit a nomination, visit: <http://greenminneapolisbusiness.com/awards>.

According to Scot Horst, senior vice president of LEED for the USGBC, “2010 was a difficult year for most of the building industry, but in many areas, the hunger for sustainable development kept the markets moving.” In addition to Minnesota, the other top LEED states per capita include the District of Columbia, Nevada, New Mexico, New Hampshire, Oregon, South Carolina, Washington, Illinois, Arkansas and Colorado.

LEED certification is the foremost program for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of green buildings. More than 40,000 projects are currently participating in the commercial and institutional LEED rating systems, comprising 7.9 billion square feet of construction space in all 50 states and 117 countries. Nearly 10,000 homes have been certified under the LEED for Homes rating system, with nearly 45,000 more homes registered.

For the full list of LEED Certified projects, visit: <https://www.usgbc.org/ShowFile.aspx?DocumentID=8784>.

About the Fourth Annual Natural Design Competition

The Minnesota Chapter is currently sponsoring its fourth annual Natural Design Competition. It calls for designing a home in Proctor, Minn., under USGBC LEED Platinum criteria. For more information on the competition, or to enter, visit www.usgbcmn.org/newsmedia/natural-talent-design-competition.

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About the Minnesota Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council

As the built environment fundamentally impacts peoples' lives and our planet's health, the mission of the Minnesota Chapter is to positively transform the building processes, building industry and communities of Minnesota, by drawing upon the experience of stakeholders in the built environment. The Chapter promotes the design, construction and operation of buildings and communities that are healthy places to live and work, environmentally responsible and economically viable on a lifecycle basis. The Chapter serves its members and communities by promoting best practices in design and technology usage, advocating green building policies and facilitating information exchange and education. The Chapter encourages the widespread acceptance and use of the LEED® Green Building Rating System™ and other complementary tools and standards. For more information, visit www.usgbcmn.org.

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